



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

CG

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,630	11/07/2001	Yuji Toyomura	MAT-8198US	4831
7590	05/31/2005		EXAMINER	
RATNER AND PRESTIA Suite 301 One Westlakes, Berwyn P.O. Box 980 Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980			DODDS, HAROLD E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2167	
DATE MAILED: 05/31/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/010,630	TOYOMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Harold E. Dodds, Jr.	Art Unit 2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1, 3-6,8,12,14-32 and 34-82 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,3-6,8,12,14-32 and 34-82 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The substitute specification filed 14 March 2005 has not been entered because it does not conform to 37 CFR 1.125(b) and (c) because: The statement as to a lack of new matter under 37 CFR 1.125(b) is missing.

Correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 4 and 59 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 4 contains the phrase "memory media is a memory card". The phrase should state "memory media are memory cards" since the word "media" is plural. Claim 59 contains extraneous words. The extraneous words are "excluding" after obtained in line 3 and "in a memory" after media in line 4.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1, 3-5, 46, 50, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over lida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,690) and Quinn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,617).

5. lida renders obvious independent claim 1 by the following:
“...a plurality of directories at a directory level...” at col. 20, lines 40-43.
“...each of said directories limited to storing files...” at col. 16, lines 18-21.
“...a further directory at said directory level...” at col. 20, lines 40-43.
“...said further directory for storing...” at col. 16, lines 18-21.

lida does not teach the use of file formats.

6. However, Quinn teaches the use of file formats as follows:
“...of a respective one of a plurality of file formats...” at col. 13, lines 4-10.
“...in other than said plurality of file formats...” at col. 13, lines 4-10.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Quinn with lida to use different formats for different types of data in order to store files from multiple applications each having their own file formats and to store other files in formats such as free text format and gain wider acceptance of the system. lida and Quinn have related applications and use similar technologies. They teach the use of computers, the use of databases or data structures, the use of

directories, the use of files, the use of tables, and the use of formats. Iida provides directories with different levels for storing files and Quinn provides the storing of specific format files and non-specific format files.

7. As per claim 3, the "...wherein said directory level is immediately under a root directory..." is taught by Iida at col. 23, lines 40-43.

8. As per claim 4, the "...memory media is a memory card..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17.

9. As per claims 5 and 50, the "...said further directory is further for storing files in one of said plurality of file formats..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10.

10. As per claim 46, the "...carryable memory media are memory card..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17.

11. As per claim 51, the "...files in said further directory are independent and without links relative to files in said plurality of directories..." is taught by Quinn at col. 6, lines 28-30 and col. 9, lines 47-49.

12. Claims 6, 17, 20-22, 32, 34, 47, 48, 49, 52-59, 61-65, 67-71, 73-77, and 79-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otomo et al. ((U.S. Patent Application Publications No. US 2001/0010049) and Quinn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,617)

Otomo renders obvious independent claim 6 by the following:
"...means for forming a plurality of directories at a directory level..." at p. 8, par. 0156 and p. 9, par. 0163.

"...each of said directories limited to storing files..." at p. 2, par. 0022 and p. 6, par. 0115.

"...a further directory at said directory level..." at p. 8, par. 0156 and p. 9, par. 0163.

"...said further directory for storing files..." at p. 2, par. 0022 and p. 6, par. 0115.

Otomo does not teach does not teach the use of file formats.

13. However, Quinn teaches the use of file formats as follows:

"...of a respective one of a plurality of file formats..." at col. 13, lines 4-10.

"...in other than said plurality of file formats..." at col. 13, lines 4-10.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Quinn with Otomo to use different formats for different types of data in order to store files from multiple applications each having their own file formats and to store other files in formats such as free text format and gain wider acceptance of the system. Otomo and Quinn have related applications and use similar technologies. They teach the use of computers, the use of data structures, the use of directories, the use of files, the use of tables, and the use of formats. Otomo defines directories with different levels for storing files and Quinn provides the storing of specific format files and non-specific format files.

14. As per independent claim 32, the "...forming a plurality of directories at a directory level..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156 and p. 9, par. 0163, the "...each of said directories limited to storing files..." is taught by Otomo at p. 2, par. 0022 and p. 6, par 0115,

the "...of a respective one of a plurality of file formats..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...forming a further directory at said directory level..." is taught by Otomo at . 8, par. 0156 and p. 9, par. 0163,

the "...said further directory for storing files..." is taught by Otomo at p. 2, pat. 0022 and p. 6, par 0115,

the "...in other than said plurality of file formats and..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...storing a file in said carryable memory media ..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,

and the "...at a data area corresponding to one of said plurality of directories or said further directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 8, par. 0156.

15. As per independent claim 49, the "...interface for reading data from said memory media..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0161,

the "...and a selector for selecting between a data area and a further data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 15, par. 0297 and p. 16, par. 0328,

the "...said selector selecting..." is taught by Otomo at p. 15, par. 0297,

the "...from said data area when said data being read corresponds to one of a plurality of directories at a directory level..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328, p. 8, par. 0161, and p. 9, par. 0163,

the "...each of said directories limited to a respective one of a plurality of file formats..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...and from said further data area when said data being read..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 8, par. 0161,

and the "...corresponds to a further directory for other than said plurality of file formats..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10.

16. As per independent claim 52, the "...plurality of directories at a directory level..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0163,

the "...each of the directories limited to storing files of a respective one of a plurality of file formats..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...and a further directory at the directory level..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0163,

and the "...further directory capable of storing a file having an arbitrary file format..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10.

17. As per independent claim 53, the "...plurality of directories at a directory level..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0163,

the "...each of the directories limited to storing first files of a respective one of a plurality of file formats..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...and a further directory at the directory level..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0163,

the "...further directory capable of storing the first files having the respective one of the plurality of file formats..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

and the "...and a second file having a file format which is different from the file formats of the first file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10.

18. As per independent claim 54, the "...detecting whether or not a file to be stored in the memory media..." is taught by Otomo at p. 3, par. 0037 and p. 9, par. 016, the "...is capable of being stored in the limited directory..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10, the "...and forming a further directory for storing the file to be stored..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156 and p. 6, par. 0115, the "...by a result of determining the file is not capable of being stored in the limited directory..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10, the "...further directory being capable of storing a file of an arbitrary file format..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10.

19. As per independent claim 55, the "...detecting whether or not a file to be stored in the memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10, the "...is capable of being stored in the limited directory..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10, the "...and forming a further directory for storing the file to be stored..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156 and p. 6, par. 0115, the "...by a result of determining the file is not capable of being stored in the limited directory..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...further directory being capable of storing the files of the respective one of the plurality of file formats..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10.

20. As per independent claim 56, the "...a plurality of directories at a directory level..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0163, the "...each of the directories limited to storing files of a respective one of a plurality of file formats..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10, the "...and a further directory at the directory level..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0163, the "...further directory capable of storing a file having an arbitrary file format..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10, the "...first step of accessing a directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0164, the "...in which a file format corresponds to a file format of the file..." is taught by Otomo at col. 13, lines 4-10, and the "...and a second step of accessing the further directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0164.

21. As per independent claim 57, the "...plurality of directories at a directory level..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0163, the "...each of the directories limited to storing first files of a respective one of a plurality of file formats..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10, the "...and a further directory at the directory level..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0163,

the "...further directory capable of storing the first files having the respective one of the plurality of file formats..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...and a second file having a file format which is different from the file formats of the first file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...first step of accessing a directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0164,

the "...of which a file format corresponds to a file format of the file..." is taught by Otomo at col. 13, lines 4-10,

and the "...and a second step of accessing the further directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0164.

22. As per independent claims 59, 65, 71, and 77 the "...CPU operable to instruct to store a file obtained excluding from the carryable memory media in a memory..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,
the "...controller operable to form a directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156,
the "...in the carryable memory media and operable to store the obtained file in the carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,
the "...wherein if a directory formed by an other apparatus..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156,
the "...is stored in the carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,
the "...and there is not a directory formed by the apparatus..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156,

the "...in the carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...apparatus makes the carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...form a new directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156, and the "...which is allowed to store an arbitrary file stored in the memory and store the obtained file in the new directory..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17 and col. 9, lines 47-49.

23. As per claim 17, the "...further comprising file extraction means, for extracting said files..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0155 and p. 3, par. 0036.

24. As per claim 20, the "...said file extraction means extracts the file..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0155 and p. 3, par. 0036, the "...that conforms to said specific file form..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10, and the "...based on the file inner structure..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 62-64.

25. As per claim 21, the "...said file extraction means extracts the file..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0155 and p. 3, par. 0036, the "...that conforms to said specific file form..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10, and the "...through a plurality of steps of extraction..." is taught by Quinn at col. 15, lines 46-52.

26. As per claim 22, the "...input means for inputting conditions for file extraction..." is taught by Otomo at p. 14, par. 282 and p. 3, par. 0036, the "...wherein said file extraction means extracts..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0155 and p. 3, par. 0036,

the "...among those which conform to said specific file form..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10,

and the "...file that satisfies said conditions for file extraction..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0155, p. 2, par. 0011, and p. 3, par. 0036.

27. As per claim 34, the "...receiving data through communication means..." is taught by Quinn at col. 10, lines 52-55, the "...forming a file based on the data received..." is taught by Quinn at col. 12, lines 30-33 and col. 10, lines 52-55, the "...storing the file formed..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10 and col. 12, lines 30-33,

the "...in said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...at a data area corresponding to said further directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 9, par. 0163.

28. As per claims 47 and 48, the "...carryable memory media are memory card..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17.

29. As per claim 58, the "...said directory level is immediately under a root directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 9, par. 0163.

30. As per claims 61, 67, 73, and 79, the "...directory formed by the other apparatus is used by the other apparatus..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156, the "...to store a file of a predetermined format..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

and the "...and is not used to store the obtained file by the apparatus..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49.

31. As per claims 62, 68, 74, and 80, the "...CPU is operable to recognize the carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...and the apparatus makes the carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...form the new directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156, the "...if the CPU recognizes the carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...in which the directory formed by the other apparatus is stored..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156, and the "...and there is not the directory formed by the apparatus..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156.

32. As per claims 63, 69, 75, and 81, the "...apparatus makes the carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...form the new directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0156, and the "...if the controller accesses to the carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 8, lines 4-6 and col. 11, lines 10-17.

33. As per claims 64, 70, 76, and 82, the "...controller is operable to reproduce the obtained file..." is taught by Otomo at p. 14, par. 0286 and p. 10, par. 0194,

the "...if the obtained file is of a predetermined format...," is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...and even if the obtained file is not formatted by the predetermined format...," is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49,

the "...and the obtained file cannot be reproduced...," is taught by Otomo at p. 14, par. 0286 and p. 10, par. 0194,

and the "...apparatus makes the carryable memory media store the obtained file in the new directory...," is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17 and col. 9, lines 47-49.

34. Claims 12, 14-16, 18, 23, and 35-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otomo and Quinn as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Carley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,701,345).

As per claims 12 and 35, the "...is stored in said carryable memory media...," is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,

the "...at a data area...," is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328,

the "...corresponding to said directory for storing no-specific format files...," is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

but the "...an attached file attached to electronic mail received...," is not taught by either Otomo or Quinn.

However, Carley teaches the use of files attached to electronic mail as follows:

"...In addition to the ability to send simple ASCII text, e-mail systems usually provide the capability to attach binary files to messages..." at col. 51, lines 61-62.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Carley with Otomo and Quinn to provide files attached to e-mail messages in order to use standard procedures for sending electronic files over networks and gain wider acceptance of the system. Otomo, Quinn, and Carley have related applications and use similar technologies. They teach the use of computers, the use of databases or data structures, the use of directories, the use of files, the use of tables, and the use of formats. Otomo defines directories with different levels for storing files and Quinn provides the storing of specific format files and non-specific format files, and Carley provides files attached to e-mail.

35. As per claim 14, the "...an operation section for operation by a user..." is taught by Carley at col. 15, lines 24-25, the "...wherein based on operation by a user of the operation section..." is taught by Carley at col. 15, lines 24-25, the "...at least one file is stored..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10, the "...in a data area corresponding to said plurality of directories..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16. par. 0328 and p. 9, par. 0163, the "...and at least another file is stored..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10, and the "...in a further data area corresponding to said further directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16. par. 0328 and p. 9, par. 0163.

36. As per claims 15 and 38, the "...separation means for separating an e-mail with the attached file..." is taught by Carley at col. 13, lines 53-56 and col. 51, lines 61-62,

the "...received through said communication means..." is taught by Quinn at col. 10, lines 52-55,

the "...into the e-mail document file and the attached file..." is taught by Carley at col. 51, lines 61-62,

the "...wherein said e-mail document file..." is taught by Carley at col. 51, lines 61-62, the "...is stored in said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,

the "...at a data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 18, par. 0328,

the "...corresponding to the directory for storing specific format files..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...and said attached file..." is taught by Carley at col. 51, lines 61-62,

the "...is stored in said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,

the "...at a data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 18, par. 0328,

and the "...corresponding to said directory for storing non-specific format files..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10.

37. As per claim 16, the "...storage of said e-mail document file and said attached file..." is taught by Carley at col. 13, lines 27-29 and col. 51, lines 61-62 and the "...is based on operation of a user..." is taught by Carley at col. 15, lines 24-25.

38. As per claims 18 and 23, the "...said control means controls at least one process among the following processes to be performed..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 14-17,

the "...on said extracted file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 31-34,
the "...for deleting the file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 13-18,
the "...shifting the file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 11-13,
the "...to a data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328,
the "...of said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,
the "...which data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328,
the "...corresponding to a different directory other than the original directory..." is taught
by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49,
the "...and storing it in there..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10,
the "...transmitting the file as an attached file..." is taught by Carley at col. 51, lines 61-
62,
and the "...and exhibiting it on a display..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 14-17.

39. As per claim 35, the "...receiving an electronic mail through
communication means..." is taught by Carley at col. 51, lines 59-62 and col. 50, lines
54-56,
the "...storing an attached file attached to the electronic mail..." is taught by Carley at
col. 13, lines 27-29 and col. 51, lines 61-62,
the "...in said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,
and the "...at a data area corresponding to said further directory..." is taught by Otomo
at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 8, par. 0156.

40. As per claim 36, the "...receiving data through communication means..." is
taught by Otomo at p. 17, par. 0337,

the "...separating received data into a plurality of files..." is taught by Carley at col. 13, lines 53-56,

the "...storing at least one file among said plurality of files in said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,

the "...at a data area corresponding to one of said plurality of directories..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 9, par. 0163,

the "...and storing the remaining file in said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,

and the "...at a further data area corresponding to said further directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 9, par. 0163.

41. As per claim 37, the "...receiving data through communication means..." is taught by Otomo at p. 17, par. 0337,

the "...separating received data into a plurality of files..." is taught by Carley at col. 13, lines 53-56,

the "...based on a first operation by a user..." is taught by Carley at col. 15, lines 24-25,

the "...storing at least one file among said plurality of files in said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10 and col. 11, lines 10-17,

the "...at a data area corresponding to one of said plurality of directories..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 9, par. 0163,

the "...and based on a second operation by a user..." is taught by Carley at col. 15, lines 24-25,

the "...storing the remaining file in said carryable memory media...," is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10 and col. 11, lines 10-17, and the "...at a further data area corresponding to said further directory...," is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 9, par. 0163.

42. As per claim 39, the "...receiving an e-mail with the attached file through communication means...," is taught by Otomo at p. 17, par. 0337, the "...separating the received e-mail with the attached file into the document file and the attached file...," is taught by Carley at col. 13, lines 53-56 and col. 51, lines 61-62, the "...based on a first operation by a user...," is taught by Carley at col. 15, lines 24-25, the "...storing said document file in said carryable memory media...," taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10 and col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...at a data area corresponding to one of said plurality of directories...," is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 9, par. 0163, the "...and based on a second operation by a user...," is taught by Carley at col. 15, lines 24-25, the "...storing said attached file in said carryable memory media...," taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10 and col. 11, lines 10-17, and the "...at a further data area corresponding to said further directory...," is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 9, par. 0163.

43. As per claims 60, 66, 72, and 78, the "...obtained file is a file attached with an e-mail....," is taught by Carley at col. 51, lines 59-62.

44. Claims 19, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quinn and Otomo as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Koyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,551).

As per claim 19, the "...said file extraction means extracts the file..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0155 and p. 3, par. 0036, the "...that conforms to said specific file form..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10, but the "...based on the file expansion index..." is not taught by either Quinn or Otomo,

However, Koyama teaches the use of file expansion indexes as follows:

"...It is to be noted that picture data recorded after undergone fixed length encoding along with header is read out as it is from the picture index file and the overall index file without allowing it to undergo expansion decoding processing to transfer it into the main memory 11a..." at col. 48, lines 27-31.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Koyama with Quinn and Otomo to provide file expansion indexes in order to use standard procedures for creating compressed files by using indexes and gain wider acceptance of the system. Quinn, Otomo, and Koyama have related applications and use similar technologies. They teach the use of computers or processors, the use of data structures, the use of directories, the use of files, the use of tables, and the use of formats. Quinn provides the directories and the storing of specific format files and non-specific format files, Otomo forms directories and provides data storage areas, and Koyama provides file expansion indexes.

45. As per claim 24, the "...said file extraction means extracts the file..." is taught by Otomo at p. 8, par. 0155 and p. 3, par. 0036,

the "...that conforms to specific file form through the following process..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...primary extraction based on the file expansion index..." is taught by Koyama at col. 48, lines 27-31,

and the "...extraction once again based on the inner structure of those extracted by said primary extraction..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 31-34 and col. 11, lines 62-64.

46. As per claim 25, the "...video processing function..." is taught by Otomo at p. 6, pr. 0115,

the "...said directory for storing specific format files containing a directory..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...for storing video information form files..." is taught by Otomo at p. 6, par. 0115,

the "...wherein a video information file is extracted..." is taught by Otomo at p. 6, par. 0115 and p. 3, par. 0036,

the "...from both of the data areas..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328,

the "...of said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,

the "...one data area is that which corresponds to the directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 8, par. 0156,

the "...for storing video information form files..." is taught by Otomo at p. 6, par. 0115,

the "...and the other data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328,

and the "...is that which corresponds to said directory for storing non-specific format files..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10.

47. Claims 28-31 and 40-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quinn and Otomo as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Yokota yet al. (U.S. Patent No 6,691,149) and Carley.

As per claims 28 and 40, the "...communication means..." is taught by Quinn at col. 10, lines 52-55,

the "...stored in a data area corresponding to said further directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 9, par. 0163,

the "...via said communication means..." is taught by Quinn at col. 10, lines 52-55, but the "...wherein the portable information terminal..."

the "...transmits the attached file..."

and the "...accompanying an e-mail..." are not taught by either Quinn or Otomo.

However, Yokota teaches the use of portable information terminals as follows:

"...Since the contents data copied to the hard disk of the personal computer can be moved to up to three portable terminal units or up to three memories according to the standard of SDMI, the content data can be substantially copied to up to four units..." at col. 38, lines 38-42.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Yokota with Quinn and Otomo to provide portable information terminals in order to use readily available small hand-held terminals for the processing of computer functions and gain wider acceptance of the system. Quinn, Otomo, and Yokota have related applications and use similar technologies. They teach the use of computers or processors, the use of data structures, the use of directories, the use of files, the use of tables, and the use of formats. Quinn provides the directories and the

storing of specific format files and non-specific format files, Otomo forms directories and provides data storage areas, and Yokota provides portable information terminals.

Koyama does not teach the use of electronic mail or attached files.

However, Carley teaches the use of files attached to electronic mail as follows:

"...In addition to the ability to send simple ASCII text, e-mail systems usually provide the capability to attach binary files to messages..." at col. 51, lines 61-62.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Carley with Quinn, Otomo, and Koyama to provide files attached to e-mail messages in order to use standard procedures for sending electronic files over networks and gain wider acceptance of the system. Quinn, Otomo, Koyama, and Carley have related applications and use related technologies. They teach the use of computers, the use of data structures, the use of directories, the use of files, the use of tables, and the use of formats. Quinn provides the directories and the storing of specific format files and non-specific format files, Otomo forms directories and provides data storage areas, Yokota provides portable information terminals, and Carley provides files attached to e-mail.

48. As per claim 29, the "...said file control means..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 14-17, the "...deletes a file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 13-18, the "...which had been stored in a data area corresponding to said further directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 9, par. 0163,

and the "...after it is transmitted via said communication means..." is taught by Quinn at at col. 10, lines 52-55.

49. As per claim 30, the "...said file control means..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 14-17,

the "...shifts a file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 11-13,

the "...that had been stored in a data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328,

the "...corresponding to said directory for storing non-specific format files..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...after it was transmitted via said communication means..." is taught by Quinn at at col. 10, lines 52-55,

the "...to a data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328,

the "...of said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,

the "...that corresponds to a certain directory other than said original directory for storing specific formal files..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10, and the "...and said original directory for storing non-specific format files..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10.

50. As per claim 31, the "...said instruction means issues one of the following instructions..." is taught by Quinn at col. 12, lines 33-37,

the "...based on operation of the operation section by a user..." is taught by Carley at col. 15, lines 24-25,

the "...after a file stored in a data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 2, par. 0022 and p. 16, par. 0328,

the "...corresponding to said directory for storing non-specific format files...," is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...is transmitted via said communication means..." is taught by Quinn at col. 10, lines 52-55,

the "...regarding how the transmitted file be handled..." is taught by Quinn at col. 4, lines 11-13,

the "...leaving the transmitted file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 4, lines 11-13,

the "...in said directory for storing non-specific format files..." is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 4-10,

the "...deleting the transmitted file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 13-18,

the "...shifting the transmitted file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 11-13,

the "...to a data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328,

the "...of said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17,

the "...that corresponds to a certain specific directory other than said original directory for storing specific format files..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10,

and the "...and said original directory for storing non-specific format files..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10.

51. As per claim 41, the "...transmitting the file stored in said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 10, lines 52-55 and col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...at said further data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328,

"...corresponding to said directory for storing non-specific format files...," is taught by Quinn at col. 13, lines 1-10,

the "...and after said file is transmitted..." is taught by Quinn at col. 10, lines 52-55, and the "...deleting said transmitted file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 13-18 and col. 10, lines 52-55.

52. As per claim 42, the "...transmitting the file stored in said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 10, lines 52-55 and col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...at said further data area corresponding to said further directory..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 8, par. 0156, the "...and after said file is transmitted..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328 the "...shifting said transmitted file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 11-13 and col. 10, lines 52-55, and the "...to yet a further data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328.

53. As per claim 43, the "...transmitting the file stored in said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 10, lines 52-55 and col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...at said further data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328, the "...after transmitting said file..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328, the "...user selecting either one of following steps based on operation..." is taught by Carley at col. 15, lines 24-25, the "...leaving said transmitted file in said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 4, lines 11-13 and col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...at said further data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328,

"...deleting said transmitted file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 13-18 and col. 10, lines 52-55,

the "...and shifting said transmitted file..." is taught by Quinn at col. 3, lines 11-13 and col. 10, lines 52-55,

and the "...to yet a further data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328.

54. Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quinn and Otomo as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Yokota and Fukunaga et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,023).

As per claim 26, the "...from data area..." is taught by Otomo at p. 16, par. 0328, the "...of said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...based on the directory for storing non-specific format files..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10, the "...from said carryable memory media..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 10-17, the "...of the directory for storing non-specific format files..." is taught by Quinn at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10, the "...and a process of checking the inner structure..." is taught by Quinn at col. 11, lines 62-64, but the "...portable information terminal..." the "...extracts the Exif format image file through either one of the following processes..." the "...extracting the JPG image file..." the "...or extracting the image file..."

the "...based on the JPG expansion index .jpg..."

and the "...of said image file extracted..." are not taught by either Quinn or Otomo.

However, Yokota teaches the use of portable information terminals as follows:

"...Since the contents data copied to the hard disk of the personal computer can be moved to up to three portable terminal units or up to three memories according to the standard of SDMI, the content data can be substantially copied to up to four units..." at col. 38, lines 38-42.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Yokota with Quinn and Otomo to provide portable information terminals in order to use readily available small hand-held terminals for the processing of computer functions and gain wider acceptance of the system. Quinn, Otomo, and Yokota have related applications and use similar technologies. They teach the use of computers, the use of data structures, the use of directories, the use of files, the use of tables, and the use of formats and Quinn and Yokota teach the use of memory cards. Quinn provides the directories and the storing of specific format files and non-specific format files, Otomo forms directories and provides data storage areas, and Yokota provides portable information terminals.

Koyama does not teach the extraction of files in the EXIF or JPEG formats.

However Fukunaga teaches the extraction of files in the EXIF or JPEG formats as follows:

"...The center transmission/reception controller 407 has: a function of managing data generated and collected by an application program such as image collector 405 of the center server and kept in a center transmission box 418 to be described later, and extracting transmission data for the image server 111 or print server 121 from the center transmission box 418 and

transmitting the extracted transmission data, in response to a data transmission/reception start request received by the image server 111 or print server 121 via NETIF 1004; and a function of storing reception data received from the image server 111 or print server 121 in a center reception box 419 to be later described and using an application program for analyzing the reception data and processing it by developing the application program from HDD 1009 or the like upon RAM 1002..." at col. 9, lines 56-67 and col. 10, lines 1-3.

"...The image format used is a format which allows to write additional information such as a comment, for example, a JFIF (JPEG Interchange Format) which is one of the image data formats using JPEG compression algorithms. The image ID of the image generated at Step S1503 and stored in RAM 2002 is written as the additional information. The image data formats include JFIF, GIF, TIF, EXIF, ZIP and the like, and the registration process is executed by using the format desired by the user..." at col. 21, lines 2-10.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Fukunaga with Quinn, Otomo, and Koyama to provide extraction of files in the EXIF or JPEG formats in order to use standard formats for video information and gain wider acceptance of the system. Quinn, Otomo, Koyama, and Fukunaga have related applications and use similar technologies. They teach the use of computers, the use of data structures, the use of directories, the use of files, the use of tables, and the use of formats and Quinn, Koyama, and Fukunaga teach the use of memory cards. Quinn provides the directories and the storing of specific format files and non-specific format files, Otomo forms directories and provides data storage areas, Koyama provides portable information terminals, and Fukunaga provides extraction of files in the EXIF or JPEG formats.

55. As per claim 27, the "...the portable information terminal..." is taught by Yokota at col. 38, lines 38-42, the "...prints the extracted Exif format file..." is taught by Fukunaga at col. 9, lines 56-67, col. 10, lines 1-3, and col. 21, lines 2-10, and the "...upon an operation made by a user..." is taught by Fukunaga at col. 5, lines 42-47.

56. Claims 44 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quinn and Otomo as applied to claims 6 and 32 above respectively, and further in view of Nishigaya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,696,900).

As per claims 44 and 45 the "...portable information terminal is a portable telephone unit..." is not taught by either Quinn or Otomo.

However, Nishigaya teaches the use of portable information terminals and portable telephones as follows:

"...Further, in this instance, the service control program means 2-1 discriminates whether or not the type of the terminal to be registered is a terminal (hereinafter referred to as user position detection terminal) which may possibly move geographically like a portable information terminal 9 such as a portable telephone set..." at col. 24, lines 54-61.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Nishigaya with Quinn and Otomo to provide portable information terminals in order to use readily available small hand-held terminals such as portable telephones for the transfer of information and gain wider acceptance of the system.

Quinn, Otomo, and Nishigaya have related applications and use similar technologies. They teach the use of computers, the use of data structures, the use of directories, and

the use of tables. Quinn provides the directories and the storing of specific format files and non-specific format files, Otomo forms directories and provides data storage areas, and Nishigaya provides portable information terminals such as portable telephones.

57. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otomo et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publications No. US 2001/0010049), Quinn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,617), and Yokota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,691,149).

58. Otomo renders obvious independent claim 8, by the following:
“...is provided with a plurality of directories at a directory level...” at p. 6, par. 0115.
“...a further directory at said directory level...” at p. 6, par. 0115.
“...at a data area...” at p. 16, par. 0328.
“...at a further data area corresponding to said further directory...” at p. 16, par. 0328 and p. 8, par. 0156.

Otomo does not teach the use of carryable memory media, the use of files with different format types, and the use of portable information terminals.

59. However, Quinn teaches the use of carryable memory media and the use of files with different format types as follows:

“...each of said directories limited to storing files of a respective one of a plurality of file formats...” at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10.
“...said further directory for storing files in other than said plurality of file formats...” at col. 9, lines 47-49 and col. 13, lines 4-10.
“...if a file to be stored conforms to said plurality of directories...” at col. 13, lines 4-10 and col. 9, lines 47-49.

“...stores the relevant file in the carryable memory media...” at col. 13, lines 4-10 and col. 11, lines 10-17.

“...corresponding to one of said plurality of file formats...” at col. 13, lines 4-10.

“...if a file to be stored does not conform...” at col. 13, lines 4-10.

“...stores the file in the carryable memory media...” at col. 13, lines 4-10 and col. 11, lines 10-17.

“...said carryable memory media...” at col. 11, lines 10-17.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Quinn with Otomo to use different formats for different types of data in order to store files from multiple applications each having their own file formats and to store other files in formats such as free text format and gain wider acceptance of the system. Likewise, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Quinn with Otomo to use carryable memory media in order to have nonvolatile data devices, which can be removed from the computer system to provide additional memory capacity to the system and be used on other similar systems. Otomo and Quinn have related applications and use similar technologies. They teach the use of computers, the use of data structures, the use of directories, the use of files, the use of tables, and the use of formats. Otomo defines directories with different levels for storing files and data areas and Quinn provides the storing of specific format files and non-specific format files and carryable memory media.

Quinn does not teach use of portable terminals.

60. However, Yokota teaches the use of portable information terminals as follows:

"...said portable information terminal..." at col. 38, lines 38-42.

"...to said portable information terminal..." at col. 38, lines 38-42.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Yokota with Otomo and Quinn to provide portable information terminals in order to use readily available small hand-held terminals for the processing of computer functions and gain wider acceptance of the system. Otomo, Quinn, and Yokota have related applications and use similar technologies. They teach the use of computers, the use of data structures, the use of directories, the use of files, the use of tables, and the use of formats and Quinn and Yokota teach the use of memory cards. Otomo forms directories and provides data areas, Quinn provides storing of specific format files and non-specific format files and carryable memory media, and Yokota provides portable information terminals.

Response to Arguments

61. Applicants' arguments filed 14 March 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the first argument for independent claim 1 on page 24, paragraph 4, the Applicants' state:

"It is Applicants' contention that the memory media defined by claim 1 is patentably distinguished from the references of record based on the requirement that it includes a plurality of directories at a directory level, with each of the directories limited to storing files of a respective one of a plurality of file formats, and a further directory at the directory level, where the further directory is for storing files in other than the plurality of file formats. This feature is herewith generally referred to as the "Directory Features" of Applicants' claimed invention. It is Applicants' position that this feature is neither taught nor suggested in the references of record, because the references of record do not

teach or suggest separate directories as defined by Applicants' claim 1 to which claims 3-5, 46, 50 and 51 depend. Applicants' amendment to claim 1 more specifically defines and distinguishes the plurality of directories and the further directory so that they are not taught or suggested in the references of record."

The Examiner disagrees. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Bennett reference has been replaced by the lida reference. A combination of teachings from the lida reference and the Quinn reference teaches all of the limitations of independent claim 1.

62. In the second argument for independent claim 1 on page 25, paragraph 3, the Applicants' state:

"But Applicants respectfully submit that even if one skilled in the art were to combine the Bennett and Quinn Patents, the result would not be the memory media defined in Applicants' claim 1 which has a plurality of directories at a directory level, with each of the directories limited to storing files of a respective one of a plurality of file formats, and a further directory at the directory level which stores files in other than the plurality of file formats. Lacking these features, the Quinn and Bennett Patents either separately or in combination do not anticipate or render obvious Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in claim 1."

The Examiner disagrees. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Bennett reference has been replaced by the lida reference. A combination of teachings from the lida reference and the Quinn reference teaches all of the limitations of independent claim 1. lida provides directories with different levels for storing files and Quinn provides the storing of specific format files and non-specific format files.

63. In the third argument for independent claims 6, 8, and 32 on page 26, paragraphs 2 and 3, the Applicants' state:

"The Iida Patent, in general, concerns a recording method and apparatus for recording data that is continuously input into a nonvolatile memory records wherein the data is discretely in a plurality of blocks under control of file management data. The Iida Patent has been cited with respect to the use of the same layer on a directory tree and in this regard, the Office Action focuses on Figures 25 and 26, illustrating directory change in a high speed process, as well as the discussion of such figures in the Iida Patent.

Applicants, however, respectfully submit that the Iida Patent does not teach or suggest that the Directory Features of Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants' claimed invention is patentably distinguished from the Iida Patent.

The Otsuka Patent, in general, relates to a storage management system for a memory card, which has a storage area divided into a plurality of storage units having a predetermined capacity, and manages a storage of information in every storage unit.

The Otsuka Patent has been cited with respect to the forming of directories and the use of data storage areas and more specifically a storage management system. But Applicants contend that the Otsuka Patent does not teach or suggest the Directory Features of Applicants' claimed invention and is therefore patentably distinguished from Applicants' claimed invention."

The Examiner disagrees. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6, 8, and 32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Otsuka reference has been replaced by the Otomo reference. Combinations of teachings from the Otomo reference and the Quinn reference teach all of the limitations of independent claims 6 and 32. Otomo defines directories with different levels for storing files and Quinn provides the storing of specific format files and non-specific format files. Independent claim 8 is taught by a combination of references from Otomo, Quinn, and Yokota. Otomo forms directories and provides data areas, Quinn provides storing of specific format files and non-specific format files and carryable memory media, and Yokota provides portable information terminals.

64. In the fourth argument for independent claims 6, 8, and 32 on page 26, paragraphs 4 and page 27, paragraph 1, the Applicants' state:

"The Carley Patent relates, in general, to system management and the monitoring of user stations for notification when multiple users attempt to alter the same data. An

instruction for initiating a load process is received from a user station, and data is downloaded from the one of the user stations to the server. A determination is made whether another load process is being concurrently executed by another user station. If it is determined that a load process is being concurrently executed, a notification is sent to the user station. More specifically, the Carley Patent has been cited with respect to the use of files attached to electronic mail relative to a development tools framework, discussed in the Carley Patent with respect to Figure 17. Applicants, however, submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in the Carley Patent of the Directory Features of Applicants' claimed invention. On this basis, Applicants' claimed invention is patentably distinguished from the Carley Patent."

The Examiner disagrees. Since combinations of teachings from the Otomo reference and the Quinn reference teach all of the limitations of independent claims 6 and 32 there is no additional requirement that Carley also teach these limitations. Likewise, since a combination of references from Otomo, Quinn, and Yokota teach all the limitations of independent claim 8 there is no additional requirement that Carley also teach these limitations.

65. In the fifth argument for independent claims 6, 8, and 32 on page 27, paragraph 2, the Applicants' state:

"The Koyama Patent, in general, relates to a still picture filing system including a printer unit, a picture processing block, a thinning and compression/expansion processing block, a storage unit, and a system control which are connected through a bus line. The Office Action focuses on the discussion in the Koyama Patent concerning file expansion indexes used in a recording operation in the still picture filing system of the Koyama Patent. But nowhere in the Koyama Patent is there any teaching or suggestion of the Directory Features of Applicants' claimed invention."

The Examiner disagrees. Since combinations of teachings from the Otomo reference and the Quinn reference teach all of the limitations of independent claims 6 and 32 there is no additional requirement that Koyama also teach these limitations. Likewise, since a combination of references from Otomo, Quinn, and Yokota teach all the

limitations of independent claim 8 there is no additional requirement that Koyama also teach these limitations.

66. In the sixth argument for independent claims 6, 8, and 32 on page 27, paragraph 3, the Applicants' state:

"The Fukunaga Patent, in general, relates to an image collector/transmitter which collects images from image keeping locations. Position information indicating the keeping location of image data is managed, and when a print order is issued from an external apparatus, the image data for the print order is collected in accordance with the managed position information, and the collected image data and a print request for the print order are transmitted to a printer controller. More specifically, the Fukunaga Patent has been cited with respect to the extraction of files in the EXIF or JPEG formats. However, the Fukunaga Patent does not rectify the deficiencies heretofore discussed with respect to the other references of record concerning the Directory Features of Applicants' claimed invention."

The Examiner disagrees. Since combinations of teachings from the Otomo reference and the Quinn reference teach all of the limitations of independent claims 6 and 32 there is no additional requirement that Fukunaga also teach these limitations. Likewise, since a combination of references from Otomo, Quinn, and Yokota teach all the limitations of independent claim 8 there is no additional requirement that Fukunaga also teach these limitations.

67. In the seventh argument for independent claims 6, 8, and 32 on page 27, paragraph 4 the Applicants' state:

"The Nishigaya Patent relates, in general, to a personal communication service distribution control system which provides a personal communication service in a combination of different networks based on the same personal identification without requiring person originating information to be aware of the type of terminal used by a transmitting person. In particular, the Nishigaya Patent has been cited with respect to the use of portable information terminals and portable telephones. But the Nishigaya Patent does not teach or suggest the Directory Features of Applicants' claimed invention."

The Examiner disagrees. Since combinations of teachings from the Otomo reference and the Quinn reference teach all of the limitations of independent claims 6 and 32 there is no additional requirement that Nishigaya also teach these limitations. Likewise, since a combination of references from Otomo, Quinn, and Yokota teach all the limitations of independent claim 8 there is no additional requirement that Nishigaya also teach these limitations.

68. In the eighth argument for independent claims 6, 8, and 32 on page 28, paragraph 1 the Applicants' state:

"The Yokota Patent, in general, relates to a data communication system for distributing music data files between a server and a client removably connected to the server. The system transfers music data files and corresponding management data from a client to a server. The server then determines whether the music data files were previously stored in the server on the basis of the corresponding management data transferred from the client and a management data file in the server. The Yokota Patent, however, does not teach or suggest a memory media or a portable information terminal as defined in Applicants' claimed invention which requires the Directory Features as described above. Thus, the Yokota Patent does not overcome the deficiencies heretofore discussed with respect the other references of record."

The Examiner disagrees. Since combinations of teachings from the Otomo reference and the Quinn reference teach all of the limitations of independent claims 6 and 32 there is no additional requirement that Yokota also teach these limitations. Likewise, Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Since the Otomo reference has been substituted for the Otsuka reference and a combination of references from Otomo, Quinn, and Yokota teach all the limitations of independent claim 8 then claim 8 is still rendered obvious by the combination of references.

Conclusion

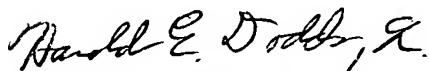
69. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

70. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harold E. Dodds, Jr. whose telephone number is (571)-272-4110. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (571)-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Harold E. Dodds, Jr.
Patent Examiner
May 24, 2005



Greta Robinson
PRIMARY EXAMINER